

Poppleton (Houses)  
Bounded by West Lexington Street on the north,  
North Schroeder Street on the east, Vine  
Street on the south and North  
Carlton Street on the west  
Baltimore (Independent City)  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-886

HABS  
MD  
4-BALTY,  
173-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HABS  
MD  
4-BALT,  
173-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

POPPLETON  
(Houses)

HABS No. MD-886

Location: Block bounded by West Lexington Street on the north, North Schroeder Street on the east, Vine Street on the south and North Carlton Street on the west  
Baltimore (Independent City)  
Maryland

Present Owner: Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Vacant, last use residential

Significance: The Poppleton area, located on the west side of the City of Baltimore, is significant for its unusually large concentration of early and mid-nineteenth century buildings, and is one of the few remaining areas in Baltimore where the appearance of the pre-Civil War city is still reflected. The area is also notable as a continuum of Baltimore row house architecture, with examples from every period of the nineteenth century. Poppleton is composed almost exclusively of two and three story, two and three bay wide, brick row houses set close to the street. These generally range in date from circa 1840 to circa 1900, with the majority from the period 1840-1870.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. DATES OF ERECTION -

The following buildings were built 1845 - 1860:

1031-51 West Lexington Street  
1069-73 West Lexington Street  
1079 West Lexington Street  
116 North Schroeder Street  
120-24 North Schroeder Street  
1014-16 Vine Street  
1020-22 Vine Street  
1021-25 Vine Street

The following buildings were built 1865 - 1885:

1063-67 West Lexington Street  
1081 West Lexington Street  
113-119 North Carlton Street  
118 North Schroeder Street  
1003-07 Vine Street  
1018 Vine Street  
1024 Vine Street  
1060-68 Vine Street

2. ARCHITECTS - NOT KNOWN

3. ORIGINAL AND SUBSEQUENT OWNERS -- Title searches and census research were not conducted for the approximately fifty properties in this neighborhood. However, general conclusions are possible for the project area. Poppleton houses were inhabited by both middle and working class, black and white Baltimore citizens. It was common for different socio-economic groups to live in close proximity in nineteenth century Baltimore neighborhoods. Larger houses of the main streets, such as Lexington Street, were generally inhabited by middle class whites. Alley housing such as the structures on Vine Street, were mostly occupied by working class or poor whites and blacks. Many residents of the area were employed by the Mount Clare Yards of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In the twentieth century, with the development of a racially segregated housing pattern in Baltimore, the Poppleton area became a predominantly poor, black community.
  4. ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS -- The area in general has been altered by demolitions giving the area a tooth-gap appearance. Many of the structures have been altered with the application of formstone and stucco. Cornices have been removed. New brickwork is apparent on many houses. Two houses were combined to form a church at 1057-59 West Lexington Street. Some houses have been partially demolished; interiors have been gutted and windows boarded.
- B. Historical Context:
- The Poppleton area is a residential one, traditionally a neighborhood of small shopkeepers, craftsmen, and industrial workers who lived in the smaller streets in modest housing. Lexington Street, however, served as an approach to the new residential developments like Franklin Square to the west, and it is lined with larger and more fashionable upper middle class row houses, reflecting real estate speculation at mid-century. Much of the block and the surrounding area were fully developed and thriving by the time of the Civil War.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character - The houses of this area are brick rowhouses, two to three stories high and two to three bays wide. Most have shed or relatively flat roofs and cornices. A few have shallow gables. They are traditional Baltimore brick rowhouses with flat facades. Little ornamentation is used except for the cornices and some door surrounds.
2. Condition of Fabric - Many of the houses are deteriorated. The project area has faced partial or complete demolition of some structures. The general condition is poor.

### B. Description of exterior:

The following are individual descriptions of front facades of properties in the project area. Most buildings have deteriorated brick or frame back buildings in various shapes, sizes and state of deterioration.

1031 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

This three story, two bay wide row house building features a simple door surround, stucco and an ornate cornice. A door and two windows are located on the first floor. The openings have splayed brick lintels, stone sills on the first floor, and wood sills on the upper levels. The cornice features end brackets, consoles and dentils.

1033 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

This small, typical row house is embellished with a wood door surround of simple pilasters and a plain entablature. It is three stories high and two bays wide with a shallow gabled roof. The third story level is low, depicted by small windows. The fenestration is six over six with splayed brick lintels and wood sills.

1035 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

The large three story high, three bay wide row house has been stuccoed. The first floor level has been altered with new, smaller windows and doors. The buildings is punctuated by broken, vinyl one over one windows. A simple dentillated cornice caps the facade.

1037-43 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

This four house grouping shares a common wood cornice with consoles surmounting small dentils. The door openings and door surrounds featuring decorative wood brackets and dentils are grouped in twos. The houses are three stories high with two windows and a door on the first floor and two windows above. The windows that are extant display six over six lights, splayed brick lintels, stone sills on the first floor and wood sills above. Two of the buildings, 1039-41 West Lexington Street, have been altered with new brick work on the first and second floors.

1051 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

This typical Baltimore row house is three stories high and two bays wide. The facade has been stuccoed. Upper level windows are arched. The cornice has large brackets with dentils between the brackets.

1053-55 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

These two houses share a large wood cornice with consoles and egg and dart molding. They are three stories high and two bays wide. The windows are segmentally arched with stone sills on the first floor and wood sills on upper levels.

1057-59 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

These two houses have been combined to form a church. It is covered with formstone and features a large white cross on the facade. The first floor has been altered with a large central opening flanked by windows and doors on the ends. The cornice has been covered by formstone.

1061 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

This three story, two bay wide row house features splayed brick lintels on the first floor, wood lintels on the upper levels and wood sills. It has a large bracketed cornice with consoles and egg and dart molding.

1063 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

This large three story, three bay wide house features stone sills, splayed brick lintels and a stone water table. The segmentally arched window is set into a simple wood surround. The bracketed cornice is highly ornate with consoles, egg and dart molding, and dentils.

1065-67 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

Although 1065 West Lexington Street has been covered with formstone, it is evident that it was once identical to the adjoining house since it shares a cornice and retains similar proportions. The houses are three stories high and two bays wide. 1067 West Lexington Street features stone sills on the first floor, wood sills on the upper levels, splayed brick lintels and a dentillated and large bracketed door surround. The large cornice on the houses have large end brackets with scroll work, ornate consoles and carved dentils.

1069-73 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

These three houses are each three stories high and two bays wide. The windows have splayed brick lintels and wood sills. The facades are decorated by a common cornice featuring brackets, benzants, a frieze and elongated dentils. A bracketed door surround highlights 1073 West Lexington Street.

1079 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

This narrow, three story high, two bay wide house is decorated with a simple bracketed door surround. It has wood sills. The lintels of the windows have been altered. The buildings is capped with a cornice of simple block consoles.

1081 WEST LEXINGTON STREET

This structure is the only extant building on the block with a storefront, although it is boarded and features little decoration. The building is three stories high and two bays wide. The upper floors have been stuccoed. A large bracketed cornice with a frieze and jig saw wood work completes the facade.

113-119 NORTH CARLTON STREET

The four houses on this small alley street are three stories high and three bays wide with six over six windows. The two northern buildings, 117 and 119 North Carlton Street, feature high basements and segmentally arched windows with wood sills. The two southern buildings, 113 and 115 North Carlton Street, do not have basements. The windows have simple wood sills and lintels.

116 NORTH SCHROEDER STREET

This three story, two bay wide house has a gabled roof and full six over six windows on each floor with wood sills and sills.

118 NORTH SCHROEDER STREET

This three story, two bay wide house is the only house in the Schroeder Street grouping that features a cornice instead of a gabled roof. Although it shares a sally port with 120 North Schroeder Street, it is styled differently. The windows are four over four with wood lintels and sills. The bracketed cornice has jig saw wood work.

120 NORTH SCHROEDER STREET

This building is three stories high and two bays wide with a gabled roof. It has four over four windows on the first floor and six over six above. The third floor level is shallower than the lower floors.

122 and 124 NORTH CARLTON STREET

These two gabled roof buildings are three stories high and two bays wide. They share a sally port. Both have a small third floor. The primary difference between the houses is that 122 North Carlton Street has segmentally arched windows and 124 North Carlton Street has flat arched windows and a high basement.

1003-07 VINE STREET

These three houses are small two bay wide, two story high alley houses. They feature high steps into the entrance, a sally port, and wood sills and lintels at window openings. A simple cornice with end brackets defining each house caps the facades.

1014-16 VINE STREET

This pair includes two houses that are three stories high and two bays wide. 1014 Vine Street is partially demolished with most of the damage on third level. The buildings have segmentally arched lintels, wood sills and small attic levels.

1018 VINE STREET

This narrow two bay wide building has a full three stories. It features wood sills and lintels, and a cornice with jig saw work and end brackets.

1020 VINE STREET

The front facade of this structure may have been similar to 1022 Vine Street, but it has been completely demolished.

1022 VINE STREET

This three story high, two bay wide house with a gabled roof is similar to 1014-16 Vine Street, except it has flat arched windows and a segmentally arched door.

1024 VINE STREET

This three story high, two bay wide house has long narrow windows with wood lintels and sills. It has a full three stories and is capped by a cornice with ornate consoles.

1021 VINE STREET

This two story high, two bay wide alley housing features high entrance steps, wood sills and lintels.

1023 VINE STREET

This alley house is also two stories high and two bays wide, but with stretcher brick lintels and header sills. A dentilled brick cornice caps the facade.

1025 VINE STREET

A small third story level on this three story high, two bay wide house distinguishes it from adjoining structures. The boarded windows feature header sills and wood lintels. A basement level is not apparent from the street.

1060 VINE STREET

This common bond brick alley house is two stories high and two bays wide with a high basement level, wood sills and header lintels. A simple console cornice caps the facade.

1062 VINE STREET

This two story, two bay wide brick house is distinguished by a sally port and metal shutter holders. It has segmentally arched windows with wood sills. A corbelled brick cornice completes the facade.

1066 VINE STREET

The first floor facade of this three story high, two bay wide building is missing. It features segmentally arched windows with wood sills on the upper levels. A simple cornice with wood strip acting as a frieze completes the disfigured facade.

1068 VINE STREET

This two story, two bay wide house has header brick lintels and wood sills. A simple bracketed cornice with a strip frieze caps the building walls.

C. Description of Interiors:

The interiors of most of the buildings were not accessible. Generally the houses are laid out with a living room and dining room on the first floor and a kitchen in the back building. Upper floors are devoted primarily for bedrooms. Some stairs are located along side walls but a few cut through the houses perpendicular to side walls. Little decoration is present except some surviving mantel pieces and wood work around windows and doors.

D. Site:

The houses are located along sidewalks. None are setback from the streets, part of the strict grid pattern of West Baltimore. There are not any notable landscape features to the site.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

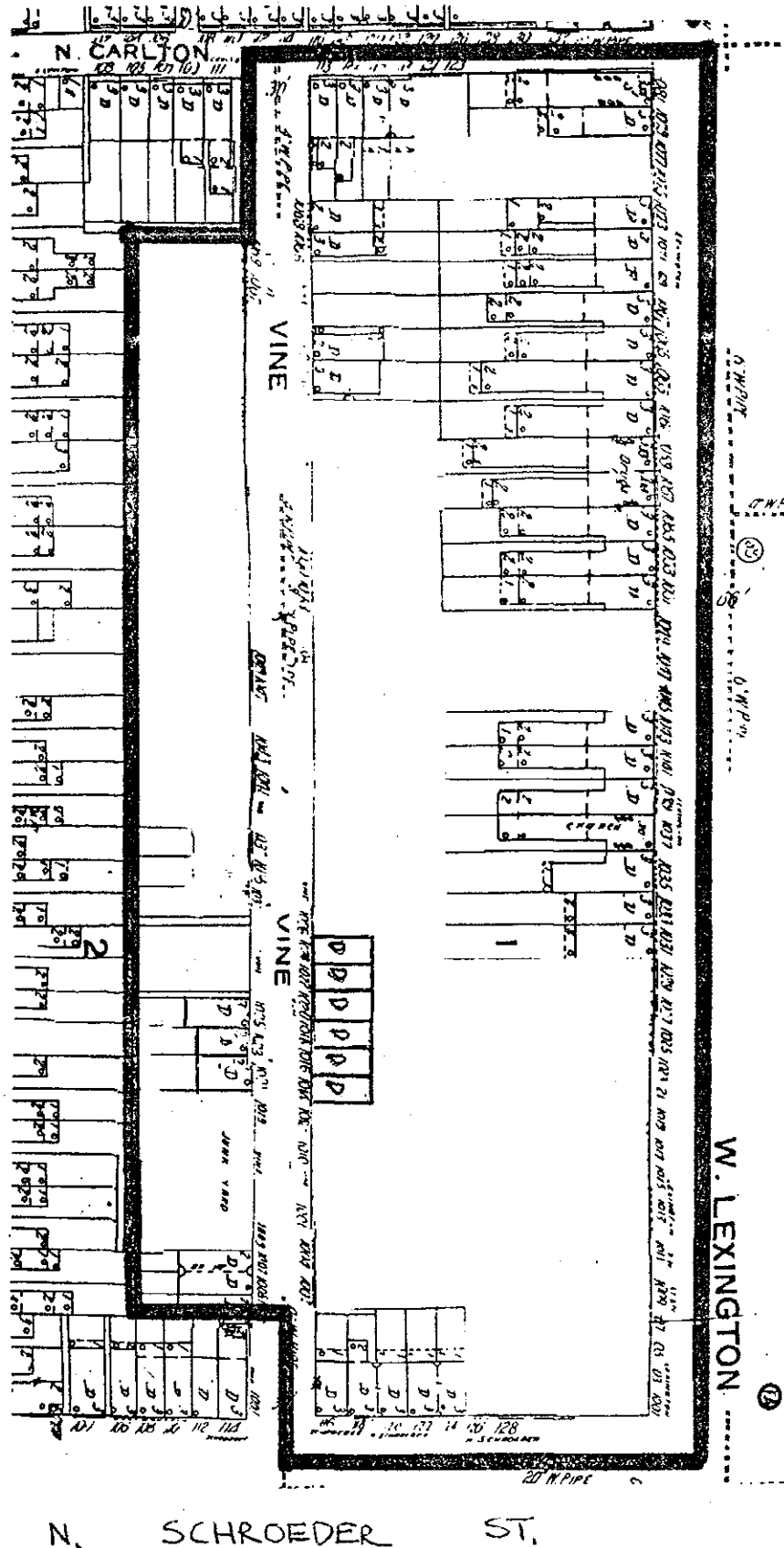
- A. Original architectural drawings -- none.
- B. Early views -- Sachse Bird's Eye View of Baltimore - 1869.
- C. Interviews -- none.
- D. Bibliography --  
Poppleton Study, Pheobe Stanton (unpublished), 1975, available at Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, Maryland Historical Trust Survey of Poppleton, Peggy Weissman, 1981, available at Maryland Historical Trust.
- E. Likely sources not yet investigated -- census field books 1880, 1900 and 1910; land records.
- F. Supplemental Materials -- relevant information from Poppleton studies by Pheobe Stanton and Maryland Historical Trust are attached. Project information is also included from Urban Development Action Grant Application.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The buildings and site described herein are to be demolished for new townhouses under an Urban Development Action Grant. The houses are for low and moderate income people and are to be constructed by Harbor Homes, Inc.

This Survey was prepared By.  
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Commission for Historical and Architectural  
Preservation - June 21, 1983.





N. SCHROEDER ST.